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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Date: September 26, 2003

STEPHEN F. GASS, ANDREW L. JOHNSON,
JOEL F. JENSEN, SUNG H. KIM, DAVID A. FANNING
and ROBERT L. CHAMBERLAIN

Serial No. : 09/929,240

Group Art Unit 3724

Filed : August 13, 2001

For : FIRING SUBSYSTEM FOR USE IN
A FAST-ACTING SAFETY SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND/OR ELECTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action mailed September 9, 2003, the Examiner required applicant to elect a species from each of two groups. In an attempt to be responsive, applicant elects what the Examiner identified as Species III from Group I and Species A from Group II. Claims 1-34 read on both elected species to the extent that at least one limitation in each of the claims reads on an element, component, mechanism, subsystem or means shown in the figures associated with the species. Applicant also points out that the pending claims are to cutting machines and mechanical releases while the species identified by the Examiner are to elements, components, subsystems and/or means that may be used in those cutting machines and mechanical releases. Thus, applicant objects to the restriction requirement.

Please call the undersigned if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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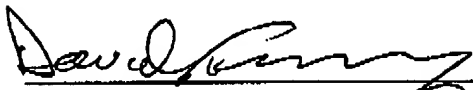
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Examiner Boyer D. Ashley, Group Art
Unit 3724, to facsimile number: (703) 872-9306 on September 26, 2003.



David A. Fanning